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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: )  
HIDEAKI OKAMOTO, et al. )  
: ) Group Art Unit: 2853  
Application No.: 10/029,244 )  
: )  
Filed: December 28, 2001 )  
: )  
For: STRUCTURE AND )  
MANUFACTURE METHOD )  
THEREFOR, LIQUID TANK )  
AND MANUFACTURE METHOD :  
THEREFOR, INK JET )  
APPARATUS AND )  
MANUFACTURE METHOD )  
THEREFOR, AND HEAD )  
CARTRIDGE AND IMAGE )  
FORMING APPARATUS : October 16, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 3,953,862  
U.S. Patent 5,603,900  
U.S. Patent 5,657,891  
U.S. Patent 5,752,629  
U.S. Patent 6,095,401  
Europe 1,142,719  
Japan 9-295406  
Japan 2000-326527  
Germany 19715263  
Germany 19832168

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These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search

Report, which is dated August 30, 2002 is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Moreover, inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

Other documents cited in the Search Report have been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 14, 2002.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of either of the Japanese documents or the Germany documents, but an English language abstract for each has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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